

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

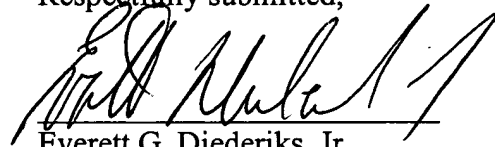
Initially, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courteous interview conducted in this case on March 25, 2004. During the interview, it was agreed that the rejection of independent claims 55 and 77 would be withdrawn. In addition, agreements were reached regarding the manner in which claims 35 and 54 could be amended to overcome the prior art of record. However, amending these independent claims in this manner would require further search and consideration by the Examiner such that they would likely not be entered after final.

Based on the agreements reached with the Examiner, claims 35-54 have been canceled such that only claims 55-77 remain in the application. As these were indicated to be allowable over the art of record, it is believed that canceling claims 35-54 would place the application in clear condition for allowance. Please note that the Applicant fully intends to file a continuation on the subject matter of claims 35-54 for full consideration by the Examiner.

Finally, submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement listing various prior art patent documents cited in a corresponding European application. Consideration of these documents in connection with allowance of the application is also respectfully requested.

If the Examiner should have any additional concerns regarding the allowance of this application, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below to further expedite the prosecution. Again, the Applicant believes that the application has been placed in clear condition for allowance based on the previous agreements reached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 33,323

Date: April 19, 2004  
**DIEDERIKS & WHITELOW, PLC**  
12471 Dillingham Square, #301  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
Tel: (703) 583-8300  
Fax: (703) 583-8301